



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

No. 39

Senate

The Senate met at 2:00 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, we put our trust in You, determined to accept the things we cannot change and to change the things we can. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to trust in Your power to help them navigate through the difficulties ahead. Lord, fill their thoughts with Heaven's hopes as the light of Your presence envelops them. Help them to see themselves as Your servant leaders, filled with Your power, patriotism, and purpose. May they tune their hearts to receive Your guidance and Your abundant grace, opening themselves fully to Your transforming might.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a

Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. BALDWIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 933, the continuing resolution. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 4:30 p.m. today. Unless an agreement is reached, there will be a cloture vote on the substitute amendment today at 5:30 p.m.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 582 AND S. 583

Mr. REID. Madam President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 582) to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

A bill (S. 583) to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these two pieces of legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to advise everyone as to what is happening with our effort to keep the government running. On Thursday we recessed for the weekend so negotiators could attempt to reach an agreement on a finite list of amendments to consider today. The bill managers, Senators SHELBY and MIKULSKI, have worked very hard, and they have made progress over the weekend. They have condensed the number of amendments that are being seriously talked about. I commend them and their staff for all their efforts. I have spoken to both of them this morning; they have not yet reached an agreement. I think they are getting close—or at least I hope that is the case. Just before coming in here, I spoke to one of the staff members, and he is reaching out to Senator SHELBY's staff before presenting it to the two Senators for their approval.

Frankly, I had trouble getting both sides to agree on a finite list of amendments. There were a lot of amendments that people wanted, but he objected to this and she objected to that. There is still hope that we can have a limited number of amendments and vote on those so we can move to final passage of the bill. One way or another, we have to move forward on this bill.

On Wednesday I filed a motion to invoke cloture on the pending substitute amendment and the underlying bill. On Thursday we postponed that cloture vote, anticipating that an agreement would be reached and that we could consider amendments today. Absent an agreement, we will vote on a cloture petition tonight. It is in the interest of all Senators that we move forward with this important legislation. The House is waiting on our action. There is a great deal of work to do on either side of the aisle before March 27 kicks in.

Also, the more time we spend on this continuing resolution, the less time we will have to vote on amendments to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S1873